Rome Scala Dante
24th March 1877

My dear Eleanor

A stick of good red sealing wax I
want very much & an English Plutarch
(Langhorne) I want still more — Now if
you can bring me these you'll set me up
for the summer — But I fear 'twill be some
inconvenience to you, if so don't think of it
— Just go to the first Bunbury bookseller & pick
up the 1st Plutarch you can lay your hands
on — The Italian one I don't like

The 14th April I look forward to with
great desire & hope that nothing will prevent
your visit — Walter has a little book to send
me "Shelleys Adonais" & a roll of prints, you
see how I encumber you

Ah the beautiful Easter which you

week remember has come to an end as the
Pope thinks & says all theatrical & which not
allows us any more - yet here is making a
dozen Cardinals & which will be done with 'em
without the Easter show

I am glad to tell you that I am well
again & have done my picture of Basil which is
thought to be if not my best work at least
the most expressive I have ever done. It
as a tribute to the memory of Keats
on the 23d there died at Genoa Mr.
Charles Cowden Clarke 90 years of age, that I
(I believe) were the only two personal friends
of the Poet living, I am 84 & I may hope
there is still time for me - My dear Mother
lived to 88 & my sister tells me I am so
like her

your loving Dadd

my darling occupation I am fortunate
in thus being able to pursue it with
success

Rome has changed very much
Music has come to an end & painting
very near - How strange that now there
never is an Italian prima Donna. We
Romans no longer cultivate the charms
of music - yet you in London have two
Operas & I hear of a third projected

My dear Father is often in my
mind & Masons court & how I have
labored to get to the position I now
enjoy - I hope to hear that you will
also do likewise - Poor Tom is still in
his bed room, his case is very hard

I am expecting a visit for my day -
Eleanor & her Hub - good bye from
your affectionate brother Joe